

RECOGNIZING JUDY JAMES FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE SONOMA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize Judy James, who is retiring after twelve years of service as the Executive Director of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau.

In the past twelve years, agriculture in Sonoma County has undergone profound changes. New pests and diseases have threatened production, farmers and ranchers have had to resist urban encroachment and development pressures, and environmental regulations have restricted some agricultural practices. The Farm Bureau, under the leadership of Ms. James, has successfully guided its members by adapting to these changing times.

Ms. James has always been a creative and dedicated advocate for Sonoma County agriculture.

She developed the Government Executive Institute program to educate local policy makers about the challenges faced by Sonoma County farmers and ranchers. The Sonoma County Farm Bureau received the first of its three national awards from the American Farm Bureau Federation for this program.

Ms. James also created the Ag-Education Contribution Fund that is supported by Farm Bureau members. Funds raised through this program are used to promote Sonoma County agriculture in the local schools.

Under her direction, the Bureau's annual Crab Feed grew from serving 100 people to serving more than 600 people, thereby generating more than \$15,000 annually for Farm Bureau activities.

Although Ms. James is retiring from a leadership role in the Farm Bureau, she will continue to be an active member. She will help her husband run the family vineyard, assist her children on their 4-H livestock projects, and teach agriculture classes at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Mr. Speaker, because of Judy James' many contributions to the Sonoma County Farm Bureau and to her community, it is fitting and proper to honor her today.

INTRODUCING THE FATAL GRADE CROSSING ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS ACT

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Fatal Grade Crossing Accident Investigations Act" to require the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate all crashes between a train and a road vehicle that result in a fatality.

The NTSB is currently charged with investigating a variety of transportation and pipeline

accidents, some of which result in no loss of life or even injury. However, freight trains and cars collide 4,000 times a year resulting in 400 deaths. The NTSB gathers these statistics from the Federal Railroad Administration and feels that its work is done. Meanwhile, the NTSB is the only agency with the authority to fully investigate these fatal crashes, and its failure to do so leaves a vacuum where families have to fight with railroad companies for answers and local law enforcement agencies are powerless to help them. In some cases, the family of a lost loved one must sue the railroad for the train engine's data recorder or results of toxicology tests that railroads conduct on employees involved in a crash. The NTSB has the authority to collect this information—if it chooses to investigate the accident. My bill requires the National Transportation Safety Board to put its resources to work where a loss of life occurs on any railroad crossing.

I am offering this bill with support from a group called Citizens Against Railroad Tragedies which brought to my attention the serious gap that exists in car-train accident investigations. I encourage all Members of the House to hear the concerns of their constituents who are associated with this group and to help us eliminate railroad crossing accidents by increasing the safety at intersections and investigating the crashes that tragically still occur everyday across our country.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM WILKINSON

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to rise today to honor a very special man—Dr. William Wilkinson, a long time physician and former Chairman of the Board of Directors of Beverly Hospital in Montebello, California. Today, in recognition of Dr. Wilkinson's numerous contributions to the hospital and community at large, a record of achievements and service spanning more than 40 years, Beverly Hospital will dedicate its new Senior Resource Center in his name and establish the "Dr. William Wilkinson Nursing Education Fund."

Dr. Wilkinson has a long litany of accomplishments which speak to his sense of duty and responsibility to the sick, to his profession and to the community that is so much a part of his life. He has been on the Beverly Hospital Board of Directors since 1971 and also served as its President; was an official physician for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles; a member of the Founding Board of Directors of MERCI—Mentally and Emotionally Retarded Children (1962); a Clinical Instructor for the Department of Family Medicine at the University of California at Irvine (1974–1988); an Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Southern California beginning in 1980; and a Trustee on the Beverly Hospital Foundation Board. In addition, Dr. Wilkinson was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Teacher of the Year (1986–1987) while at the University of California at Irvine.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all my colleagues to join me in saluting Dr. William Wilkinson for

his selfless and untiring efforts on behalf of others. His devotion to his work and his commitment to others—the needy, the poor, the sick, the young and old alike—have endeared him to so many of his fellow medical professionals and to the countless people who have received his comfort, advice and professional care. It is indeed fitting today that we honor Dr. Wilkinson for all he has done to make life better for so many.

POWER TEAM WEEK, KENNESAW, GEORGIA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the dates Monday, May 28th through Sunday, June 3rd, 2001, will be recognized by the City of Kennesaw, Georgia as, "Power Team Week." During this week young people from all walks of life will have the opportunity to be motivated, encouraged and inspired by their awesome displays of strength, and powerful, values based motivational message.

In Congress we struggle every day with serious issues and problems facing the youth of our country. It is encouraging to know John Jacobs and his Power Team, are motivated by a quote from Mr. Jacobs himself, "today's young people are tomorrow's future." He is absolutely correct, and for more than 20 years, he and The Power Team have been taking the message of "saying no" to drugs and alcohol, the importance of high moral standards in one's life, and striving for academic excellence, directly to the youth of America.

We commend John Jacobs and The Power Team for their continued work on behalf of America's young people, and for the City of Kennesaw for recognizing May 28th through June 3rd, 2001 as "Power Team Week."

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month this May 2001. Almost two decades ago, President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution declaring the first Asian Pacific American Heritage Week as May 4–10, 1979. Then, a decade ago, the celebration was extended to the entire month. Finally, Public Law 102–450 approved on October 23, 1992, designated May of each year as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

I am proud that the region I represent in Congress is a diverse one and is home to many people of Asian Pacific heritage. So many of my constituents have distinguished themselves through their accomplishments in education, business, medicine and science, and other forms of public and private sector